AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of fabricating an implantable medical device having at least one porous layer for releasably containing at least one therapeutic agent, the method comprising:

providing an implantable medical device comprising ~~at least one~~ an alloy, the alloy including a sacrificial component and a structural component; and

selectively removing at least some of the sacrificial [one] component of the alloy, leaving behind the structural component in the form of a matrix with tortuous pathways resulting from the removal of the sacrificial component, to form ~~the at least one~~ a porous layer.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein providing the implantable medical device comprises providing a tubular stent ~~device~~ having an outer surface and an inner surface.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein the tubular stent ~~device~~ comprises a coronary artery stent ~~for use in a percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty procedure~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein the ~~at least one~~ alloy is ~~disposed along~~ deposited onto the outer surface of the tubular stent ~~device~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, ~~wherein providing the implantable medical device includes~~ wherein ~~depositing the at least one~~ the alloy is deposited on ~~at least one~~ a surface of the implantable medical device.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the alloy comprises at least one metal selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, nitinol, steel, chromium, iron, nickel, copper, aluminum, titanium, tantalum, cobalt, tungsten, palladium, vanadium, platinum and niobium.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising embedding at least one substance within the alloy before the removing step.

12. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 11, wherein the at least one substance is selected from the group consisting of a salt and silicon dioxide particles.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein selectively removing ~~the~~ at least some of the sacrificial [one] component comprises ~~dissolving~~removing a most electrochemically active component of the alloy.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, further comprising introducing ~~the at least one~~ a therapeutic agent into the tortuous pathways of the matrix~~porous layer~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 16, wherein introducing the ~~at least one~~ therapeutic agent comprises introducing the therapeutic agent by at least one of liquid immersion[[,]] and vacuum dessication.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 16, wherein the ~~at least one~~ therapeutic agent comprises at least one anti-restenosis agent or anti-inflammatory agent for inhibiting restenosis of a coronary artery.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the device is provided with multiple layers of alloy and multiple components are removed to provide a device having multiple porous layers.

20. (Original) A method as in claim 19, wherein the multiple porous layers have different porosities and different atomic compositions.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4[1], ~~further comprising forming a porous layer on an~~ wherein the alloy is located on the inner surface ~~lumen~~ of the tubular stent ~~device~~.

22. (Canceled)

Claims 23-41 (Canceled)

42. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein the porous layer is a nanoporous layer.

43. (New) A method as in claim 42, wherein selectively removing at least some of the sacrificial component of the alloy comprises a dealloying process.

44. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein the alloy is a cobalt-chromium alloy.

45. (New) a method as in claim 44, wherein the cobalt-chromium alloy is L605.

46. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein the alloy comprises a silver-gold alloy.

47. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein the alloy comprises a stainless steel alloy.

48. (New) A method as in claim 47, wherein the stainless steel alloy is 316L stainless steel.

49. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein the alloy comprises a nickel-titanium alloy.

50. (New) A method as in claim 1, further comprising:

providing a second alloy on the implantable medical device, wherein the second alloy includes a second sacrificial component and a second structural component; and

selectively removing at least some of the second sacrificial component of the second alloy, leaving behind the second structural component in the form of a second matrix with tortuous pathways resulting from the removal of the second sacrificial component, to form a second porous layer.

51. (New) A method as in claim 50, wherein the second alloy is deposited on the porous layer.

52. (New) A method as in claim 50, wherein the second alloy has a different atomic composition from the alloy.

53. (New) A method as in claim 50, wherein the second porous layer has a different porosity from the porous layer.

54. (New) A method as in claim 6, wherein the alloy is deposited onto the inner and outer surfaces of the tubular stent.